
E-ALERT is compiled based on a service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks; (3) major reports from professional associations; and (4) articles.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

- [Item#1](#) The "Islamic State" Crisis and U.S. Policy
- [Item#2](#) Growing Concern about Rise of Islamic Extremism at Home and Abroad
- [Item#3](#) Effective CVE Approaches
- [Item#4](#) After the Spring: Reforming Arab Armies
- [Item#5](#) Political and Socio-Economic Change: Revolutions and Their Implications for the U.S. Military
- [Item#6](#) Going Anti-Access at Sea: How Japan Can Turn the Tables on China
- [Item#7](#) Building Trust on the Korean Peninsula: An Assessment of Trustpolitik for Inter-Korean Relations
- [Item#8](#) China to Hong Kong: You Can Vote, We Select the Candidates
- [Item#9](#) Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream
- [Item#10](#) Protection of Trade Secrets: Overview of Current Law and Legislation
- [Item#11](#) Global Public Downbeat about Economy
- [Item#12](#) Younger Americans and Public Libraries

Reports

- [Item#1](#)
The "Islamic State" Crisis and U.S. Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kenneth Katzman et al. September 10, 2014.

The Islamic State is a transnational Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group that has expanded its control over areas of northwestern Iraq and northeastern Syria since 2013, threatening the security of both countries and drawing increased attention from the international community. There is debate over the degree to which the Islamic State organization might represent a direct terrorist threat to the U.S. homeland or to U.S. facilities and personnel in the region.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R43612.pdf?x> [PDF format, 22 pages, 562.12 KB].

Item#2

Growing Concern about Rise of Islamic Extremism at Home and Abroad. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 10, 2014.

The public has become more worried about Islamic extremism. Six-in-ten (62%) are very concerned about the rise of Islamic extremism around the world, which is the largest share dating back to 2007. A somewhat smaller majority (53%) is very concerned about the possibility of rising Islamic extremism in the U.S., which ties a record high.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/09/9-10-14-Islamic-Extremism-release.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages, 444.48 KB].

Item#3

Effective CVE Approaches. U.S. Institute of Peace. Georgia Holmer. September 10, 2014.

Unlike other counterterrorism strategies, countering violent extremism (CVE) focuses on preventing individuals from being recruited into or joining violent extremist groups. CVE is a complex endeavor, largely because the reasons individuals become involved in extremist violence are in themselves complex and the dynamics are unique to each conflict. Using Kenya as an example, and drawing on observations from a recent visit, the author explores how promoting a more nuanced understanding of radicalization can help reach those who are at risk of being pushed and pulled into extremist violence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB178_Creating-Spaces-for-Effective-CVE-Approaches.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages, 261.16 KB].

Item#4

After the Spring: Reforming Arab Armies. Strategic Studies Institute. Florence Gaub. September 11, 2014.

As the Arab Spring has renewed Western interest in the political, as well as military, role of Arab armed forces, reform, rather than mere assistance, is crucial. The author focuses on the structural aspects of reform from which the Arab Spring forces would benefit. Seven features are identified which need to be addressed when attempting Arab military reform in the countries affected by large-scale unrest in 2011: an unclear mandate, over-politicization, a challenging ongoing security situation, limited resources, lack of civilian oversight, pockets of paramilitary activity, and, in parts, as well as the lack of an institutional

perception of reform need. Their origins are elaborated as much as recommendations for what outside assistance can achieve.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1232> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file].

Item#5

Political and Socio-Economic Change: Revolutions and Their Implications for the U.S. Military. Strategic Studies Institute. John R. Deni. September 9, 2014.

Dramatic political, economic, and social changes across both the Greater Middle East and Latin America over the last several years, in some instances revolutionary, in others evolutionary, have had profound implications for global security generally and U.S. security specifically. Policymakers in Washington are hence confronted with the issue of how to respond to the various changes in these disparate regions in order to safeguard U.S. interests, promote Western values, and shape the security environment into the future. The authors assess the changes across these two important regions, outline the implications for U.S. security and specifically for the U.S. military, and offer policy recommendations for the way forward.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/download.cfm?q=1223> [PDF format, 93 pages, 1.02 MB].

Item#6

Going Anti-Access at Sea: How Japan Can Turn the Tables on China. Center for a New American Security. Toshi Yoshihara. September 12, 2014.

he report aims to explore various types and facets of strategies to deter, deny and impose costs on provocative behavior in maritime Asia, as part of an overall effort to preserve that region's long-term peace and stability. The author examines how Tokyo can, in the context of a consistently defensive approach to security and a strong U.S.-Japan alliance, adopt asymmetric strategies to counter negative trends in relative maritime power between Japan and China. He concludes that Japan could leverage existing capabilities, human and physical capital to better deny war aims of potential aggressors, thus bolstering defense and deterrence, strengthening the alliance with Washington, and contributing to the overall peace of maritime East Asia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cnas.org/sites/default/files/publications-pdf/CNAS%20Maritime2_Yoshihara.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages, 341.35 KB].

Item#7

Building Trust on the Korean Peninsula: An Assessment of Trustpolitik for Inter-Korean Relations. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Stephanie Nayoung Kang. September 15, 2014.

Amidst increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula following a series of North Korean military provocations and a third nuclear test, the Park Geun-hye administration entered office in 2013 on a political platform aimed at building trust with the South Korean public, between the two Koreas, and among regional neighbors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/issuesinsights_vol14no13.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages, 518.38 KB].

Item#8

China to Hong Kong: You Can Vote, We Select the Candidates. YaleGlobal. George Chen. September 1, 2014.

After Beijing's promise of universal suffrage for the 2017 election, Hong Kong, which was handed over to China by the British colonial ruler in 1997, had anticipated more democracy. But China dashed such hopes by announcing plans to pre-approve candidates for the election of a chief executive, explains George Chen. Occupy Central immediately organized protests, and Chen points out that despite ambivalence about its impact on business the movement sends a signal to Beijing and the Communist Party that individuals will fight to defend core values of democracy including the freedom of the press, speech and assembly. Skeptics have long questioned the "one country, two systems" scheme suggesting that socialism and capitalist democracy could co-exist without discontent. Beijing may worry that desire for freedom and political reform could spread to cities on the mainland, and Chen concludes, "Hong Kong can still make a huge difference for itself and China in the world stage if its people can continue to stand by the core values of the society."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-hong-kong-you-can-vote-we-select-candidates> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream. American Academy of Arts & Sciences. September 15, 2014.

Scientific and technological advances are fundamental to the prosperity, health, and security of America. Innovation and rapid integration of new knowledge and technologies emerge from investments in research and development, and rely on the partnership among universities, federal and state governments, and industry. Staying globally competitive will require a stronger partnership and a greater focus on long-term planning in scientific and engineering research. The report offers actionable recommendations for the long-term sustainability of the U.S. science and engineering research system to ensure that the American people receive the maximum benefit from federal investments in research.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.amacad.org/multimedia/pdfs/publications/researchpapersmonographs/restoringFoundationBrief.pdf> Brief [PDF format, 36 pages, 2.15 MB].

<http://www.amacad.org/multimedia/pdfs/publications/researchpapersmonographs/restoringFoundation.pdf> Full Text [PDF format, 152 pages, 4.06 MB].

Item#10

Protection of Trade Secrets: Overview of Current Law and Legislation. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Brian T. Yeh. September 5, 2014.

A trade secret is confidential, commercially valuable information that provides a company with a competitive advantage, such as customer lists, methods of production, marketing strategies, pricing information, and chemical formulae. To succeed in the global marketplace, U.S. firms depend upon their trade secrets, which increasingly are becoming their most valuable intangible assets. However, U.S. companies annually suffer billions of dollars in losses due to the theft of their trade secrets by employees, corporate competitors, and even foreign governments. Stealing trade secrets has increasingly involved the use of cyberspace, advanced computer technologies, and mobile communication devices, thus making the theft relatively anonymous and difficult to detect. The Chinese and Russian governments have been particularly active and persistent perpetrators of economic espionage with respect to U.S. trade secrets and proprietary information.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/R43714.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages, 432.87 KB].

Item#11

Global Public Downbeat about Economy. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. September 9, 2014.

Six years after the beginning of the Great Recession, amid an uneven global economic recovery, publics around the world remain glum. In most nations, people say their country is heading in the wrong direction and most voice the view that economic conditions are bad, according to a 44 country survey by the Pew Research Center conducted among 48,643 respondents from March 17 to June 5, 2014.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/09/Pew-Research-Center-Economic-Conditions-Report-FINAL-September-9-2014.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages, 686.65 KB].

Item#12

Younger Americans and Public Libraries. Pew Research Internet Project. Kathryn Zickuhr and Rainie. September 10, 2014.

Younger Americans, those ages 16-29, especially fascinate researchers and organizations because of their advanced technology habits, their racial and ethnic diversity, their looser relationships to institutions such as political parties and organized religion, and the ways in which their social attitudes differ from their elders. The report pulls together several years of research into the role of libraries in the lives of Americans and their communities with a special focus on Millennials, a key stakeholder group affecting the future of communities, libraries, book publishers and media makers of all kinds, as well as the tone of the broader culture.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/09/PI_YoungerAmericansandLibraries_091014.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages, 674.98 KB].